PARISH NEWS

For: Malpas, Threapwood and Bickerton

April 2022

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Our Cover Picture

Foundation Stage pupils from Malpas Alport school wearing their Easter bunny masks. All the children from pre-school up to year 3 & 4 took part in making Easter themed art work for the Parish Magazine. See the other pictures in our magazine. A very big THANK YOU to all the children and their teachers for helping us get prepared for Easter.

Our next parish magazine is May, a month full of blossom trees and bird-song, so I look forward to children creating lovely pictures for our cover. Please send a photograph or scan of the art with name and age of the artist to my email liane.smith@outlook.com any date *before 7th April*.

Heads up for the JUNE magazine which will be the month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee—70 years since she was crowned Queen. That's definitely something special to make some art or craft about.

Year 3 and 4 children made an Easter Egg Hunt with colourful arrows and eggs and footprints all leading on the hunt route. Their egg head-dresses are superb—what a talented group of artists! Another group from year 3/4 on the Editor's letter page.

April Services

Friday 1st April

10.00am—Bickerton School Easter story at Holy Trinity

Sunday 3rd April

8.00am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at St Oswald's
9.30am - Parish Communion at St John's
11.00am - Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
11.00am - Sung Parish Communion (Common Worship) at St Oswald's
6.30pm—Evening prayer at St Oswald's

HOLY WEEK:

Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday

Blessing and Distribution of Palms at all services
8.00am - Holy Communion at St Oswald's
9.30am - Parish Communion at St John's
9.30am - Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
11.00am - Parish Communion at St Oswald's
6.30pm – *Stations of the Cross—A reflection for Palm Sunday* in word and music at St Oswald's

Maundy Thursday 14th April

7.30pm - Sung Communion of The Last Supper for all The Benefice at St Oswald's with Vigil of Prayer and 9.30pm Compline.

Good Friday 15th April

10.00am - Good Friday Service at Holy Trinity
2.00pm - Last Hour at The Cross at St Oswald's

Easter Day - Sunday 17th April

8.00am - Holy Communion at St Oswald's.
9.30am - Parish Communion at St John's
11.00am - Parish Communion at Holy Trinity.
11.00am - Parish Communion at St Oswald's.
6.30pm - Evening Prayer at St Oswald's

Sunday 24th April

8.00am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at St Oswald's
9.30am - Parish Communion at Holy Trinity
11.00am - Sung Parish Communion (Common Worship) at St Oswald's
6.30pm—Evening prayer at St Oswald's

Note From The Editor

April brings the festival of Easter, so thoughts turn immediately to chocolate eggs bringing joy and a treat with their new life, fresh start connotations. But you really only get the context of Easter Day after the build up of Holy Week. This follows the steps of the last week of the life of Jesus Christ from his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday (April 10th) through to his arrest on Maunday Thursday (14th April) and crucifixion on Good Friday (15th April). After all the build up and drama, Easter day (April 17th) is a really joyous event, and then the Easter eggs become more than just a tasty treat, but a symbol of the re-birth we can all experience in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Try to visit your local church during Holy Week and especially join us on Easter Sunday with the churches full of flowers and the wonderful message of hope and confidence in the future.

Malpas Alport Year 3&4 Easter egg hunt

Plans for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Malpas in June are progressing well, so do put that long weekend in your diary (**2-5 June**). **We may be the only generation that will ever celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.** Please note that some of the events will be national celebrations which we will share across the country, so don't miss these. These include the service of Thanksgiving on Friday 3rd June in St Oswald's including reflections on Her Majesty's 70 year reign, music from the coronation and prayers for the Queen. It will be really something special. Plan now for the celebration parade of '50's fashions and characters and get your dog in training for the dog show and muscles ready for the tug of war—something for everyone on Saturday 4th June when ***Malpas Makes it Memorable.*** See poster in the magazine.

I selected an interesting article from David Hayns about the historic corn mills in the area this month. There are two puzzles and colouring pages and you can read the second part of the report Fifi McLachlan and I prepared (in February) about the Sandstone Beavers and Explorers.

I'd like to hear about hobbies you enjoy, walks or events at your clubs. Other ideas for content always welcomed. Please think ahead and send details of any events in May through before 10th April to: my email below.

Liane Smith

liane.smith@outlook.com

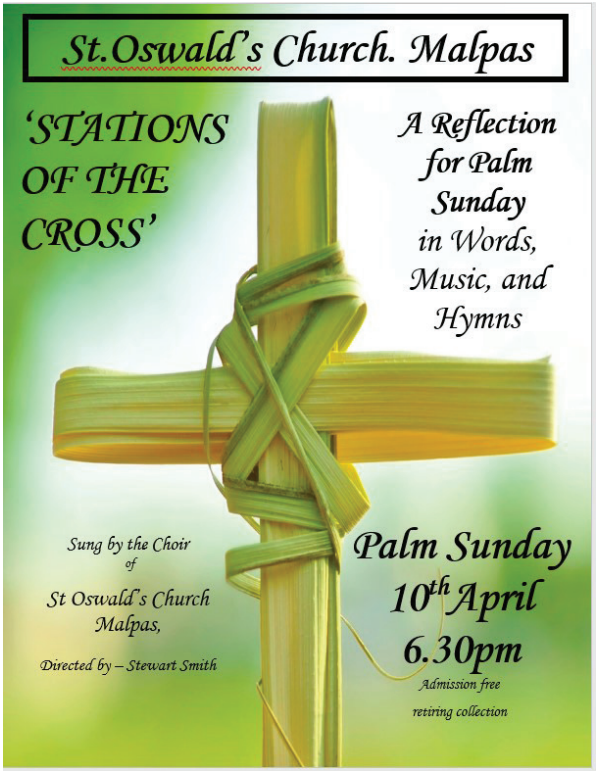
Thanks to all our advertisers who help us to produce this magazine each month. Do check the adverts if you need a local supplier and make the most of all the High Street shops and eating places—they're a key part of the character of Malpas village.

Owing to retirement a few advertisers have recently stopped so please encourage new advertisers to contact us to feature in the "widely read" Parish News!

Warden's Report Malpas

Dear Friends,

The Season of Lent is now upon us, but while we are preparing for Holy Week from the comfort of our homes, we think and pray for the people of Ukraine. They were invaded on Thursday 24th February and their suffering is terrible. It is hard to believe that this can happen in the 21st Century. But we will continue to pray for everyone involved in this conflict.



Mothering Sunday is on Sunday, 27th March and at St Oswald's we have a special service planned, so do please come and join us in giving thanks for our Mother's.

Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday and the giving of palms to everyone. On Maundy Thursday we are fortunate to have Canon Jeremy Dussek from Chester Cathedral to take our service at 7.30pm followed by Compline. On Good Friday we have our hour of vigil from 2pm - 3pm. On Sunday, 17th April do join us for our Easter Day celebrations.

We are continually thankful to our excellent retired clergy who support us each week and enable us to keep holding all our services In the Parishes.
Everyone is welcome to come and join us at our Sunday and midweek services.

Beverley Dobson and Angela Latham,
Church Wardens St Oswald's and St John's

Any time you feel you want to take time out, grab some quiet contemplation or private prayer , take the opportunity to step in to St. Oswald's. It's a magnificent Grade 1 listed building offering, literally space, time, quiet, rejuvenation, healing and inspiration. Its your parish church, please feel welcome to make use of it . ***Open every day of the week from 10.00 am to 4pm***

Warden's Letter Bickerton

Dear Friends,

The daily reports of the escalating Russian offensive in Ukraine causing so much human suffering in Ukraine makes us feel quite helpless. However, it was heartening to see the overwhelming response to the partnership between Holy Trinity and Bickerton Village Hall in the first week of the conflict. We launched an appeal for Ukraine and within 2 days collected over two tons of donations which was transported to Poland via a central hub in Wrexham. It was truly humbling to witness our small community's generosity and selfless giving- both in donations and in time sorting the collection at the Hall. A heartfelt thank you!

We celebrate Easter this month so please join us for our services and, if you are able, please do join us at 10.00 am on the 1st of April when the children of Bickerton school are telling their version of the Easter story in the grounds of Holy Trinity. We are also hopeful that we can once again open Holy Trinity on Easter Monday and serve cake/coffee and teas to walkers and members of the wider community. If you happen to be in the area, please call in.

Our APCM has been brought forward this year to 3rd April following the 11.00 am service. It's a time to hear what your church is doing and planning for the future - and to have your voice heard. On behalf of the PCC of Holy Trinity can I wish you a Blessed Easter. Val Capewell, Warden

May	Rachel Hall
June	Andrew Higgins
July	Mike Butterworth
Aug	Audrey Lees
Sept	Andrew Higgins
Oct	Elaine Dunham
Nov	Chris Latham
Dec	Audrey Lees
Jan	Amy Clayton
Feb	Charles Hobson

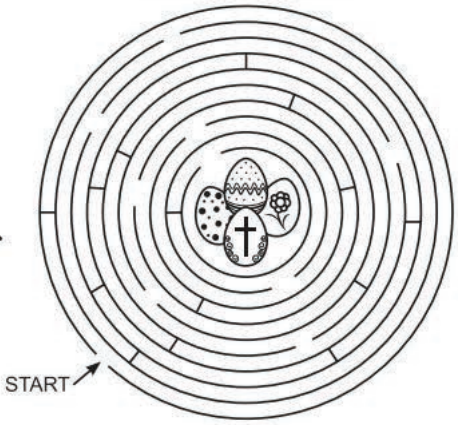
Holy Trinity Bickerton Church Lucky Lottery Winners 21/22

Malpas Alport Pre-schoolers tackle still life painting—very ambitious!

Puzzles for Easter

Join the dots

Easter Egg Maze



Easter Wordsearch

Palm Tomb Easter

Jesus Cross Died

Risen Alive Heaven

Happy Sunday Lent

Friday New Donkey

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A	D	B	D	E	F	M	N	A	E	O	O	Z	K	H	L	P	P	F

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Malpas Community Minibus
Back to Work!

In 2017, with financial support from the generous people of Malpas, CWAC Council and Malpas Parish Council, a shiny new minibus was purchased and started service. The minibus offers low cost transport for local community groups. Following the interruption of services due to the pandemic, normal operations have now resumed and the minibus is **back in business**!!!

The bus comfortably carries 11/12 people and the pick-up area is approximately within Malpas + 5 miles, but the journeys can be much longer if required. The minibus even has a hydraulic lift and is wheelchair friendly.

If you are a local community group, an annual fee of £20 is charged, and groups pay £1/mile of journey.

Your minibus is regularly used by Malpas OPAL Club and there are advertised shopping trips when you can be helped to get your "big" shop done. The drivers will even assist you and your shopping back to your door.

Maybe you are a community sports club wanting to get your team to matches? Or a group would like an outing to Storyhouse? How about a day out in Llandudno? A trip to our beautiful city of Chester? A trip to Theatre Clwyd? Or even a shopping day in Wrexham or Manchester? The list is endless.

If any of these appeal, then your community minibus is the ideal mode of transport. It is a really good value option offering the camaraderie of travelling in comfort with friends knowing you will be safely driven by a friendly, trained volunteer driver who will drop you off and pick you up at your chosen venue so you don't have to worry about parking.

Make sure you **book early by ringing Ilene (07779 782305) or John (07715 005288)** and we will do the rest. Ilene and John look forward to hearing from you – spring's coming. Maybe its time to start planning your next adventure!

We're looking for new Committee members and volunteer drivers - see our advert in this magazine!

Malpas Alport Primary School

Malpas Alport Year 1 & 2 in their Easter headbands

I think the children's art has really helped us get ready for Easter, they're AMAZING! Thank you all.

I will be with you — Malcolm Guite

Your final words fulfil your ancient name,
A promise hidden in *Emmanuel*,
A promise that can never fade or fail:
I will be with you till the end of time;
I will be with you when you scale the height
And with you when you fall to earth again,
With you when you flourish in the light,
And with you through the shadow and the pain.
Our God with us, you leave and yet remain
Risen and hidden with us everywhere;
Hidden and flowing in the wine we share,
Broken and hidden in the growing grain.
Be with us till we know we are forgiven
Be with us here till we're with you in heaven.

I think this is a beautiful poem for Easter, based upon my favourite words in the Bible - "I will be with you till the end of time". Malcolm Guite is a life fellow of Girton College, Cambridge, a poet and author of many books. He also writes "The Poet's Corner" column in *The Church Times.*

Kate Hobson

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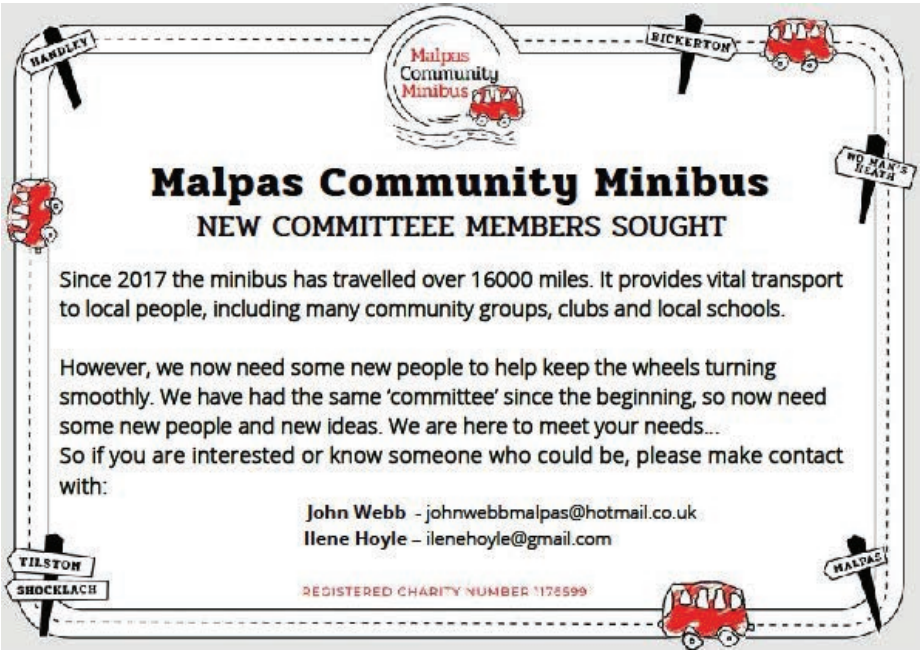

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Getting Ready for June Parade! Style Highlights from 1952

Dig out your vintage or get sewing ready for the Jubilee weekend! Quite a range of styles to choose from in early 1950's. Swing and pencil skirts, capri pants, bolero jackets and neat hats or bandanas...

Style for men in '50's looks like baggy knees were all the rage.

The 1950s was the first time there was a market for teenagers. It was a time to dress differently to one's parents, and so girls wore brightly coloured patterned dresses with tight waists and wide skirts, ideal for rock'n'roll dancing. Capris, tight tops and flat shoes such as oxfords were also part of the Look.

Young men went for the Teddy Boy look,

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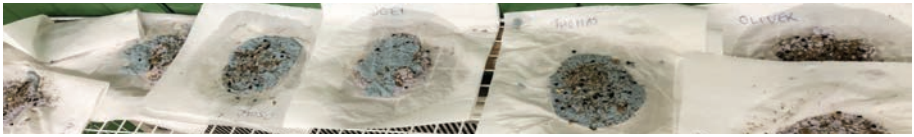
Beavers and Explorers 12th January

Fifi and I arrived at the start of **Beavers** (age 6-8) with a noisy ball game being played as 22 busy beavers assembled at 6pm. After saluting the flag the group split up for 3x 15 minute activities, "bug finding" outside, "pond dipping" (inside!) to identify creatures and "making seed paper". There were plenty of helpers to manage the energy level with the leaders, 2 parent helpers and some Explorers (more later).

This evening the most popular activity was making seed paper (papier mache shapes with seeds sprinkled on top to grow), "I liked squishing it" gives you the idea! In general the children enjoy "doing messy activities" as well as playing outside, making friends, camping and getting badges. Many badges



were presented at the end of the meeting. One beaver was awarded the 'Bronze Chief Scouts Award' for completing 6 challenge badges! Find out more about the beavers and other scouts groups at www.sandstonescouts.org.uk/

The **Explorers** (14-18) meeting at 7.30pm commenced with the salute and then a demonstration of pheasant plucking by Robin Pfeiffer. 16 birds were then duly plucked by the Explorers (incl myself and Fifi, right). It took us about 10 times longer than Robin but it was a first time for everyone. After a brief clear up of the feathers

(yes, everywhere!) Robin demonstrated the removal of wings and gutting, which everyone copied, very successfully overall. Random scores for the activity ranged from 2 "never again", 4 "interesting but difficult", 7 "pretty good" to a majority of 10's "actually surprised me, it was good, fairly easy" and an 11! Thanks to Bolesworth Estate gamekeeper for sourcing the birds.

The Explorers do a lot of camping and survival training, so bird plucking could come in one day. The Leader heroically offered to take all the pheasants home to roast and freeze to keep for next week's cooking with any other ingredients they bring along. [I enjoyed mine roasted the next day.]

Explorers do many badges, including Duke of Edinburgh medals, several of the group currently busy with Bronze and Silver levels. These require community activity over several months. Explorers volunteer to help Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, visit elderly neighbours, hockey training for beginners, babysitting and litter picking amongst many. They all do orienteering and hiking plus camping out over a couple of nights. Sports /activity training was very varied, cycling, running, hockey, cooking and music were mentioned. Some had been in the Sandstone group since the age of 6 and enjoyed all the friendships and experiences they had shared as a group.

“Most Pleasant Pheasant 2022”

On January 19th the Explorers got the chance to cook meals incorporating additional ingredients they brought along into which they mixed the pheasant meat. Some quite exciting dishes were tried, (savoury rice and pheasant, sweet and sour pheasant, mince and peas and pheasant, several curries ...lots of ideas…). Official tasting took place in order to select the winners of the “Most Pleasant Pheasant”, cooks Esther and Holly. Well done!

1st Sandstone Scout Group

The scout team has many leaders but they are keen to engage with other volunteers who would like to join the Leaders team.

They are also seeking a new CHAIRMAN to assist the organisation i.e. advising the leadership team and the Group Scout Leader, ensuring required annual meetings etc. are followed (a few evenings commitment only per year). The Chairman does not need to be from a scouting background, just someone used to organisational management, but an interest in scouting would be great. Please contact the Group Scout Leader at Tony@tsre.uk if you would like to know more about Chair or Leader vacancies.

It was great having Fifi helping with these articles on the Sandstone Scout group.

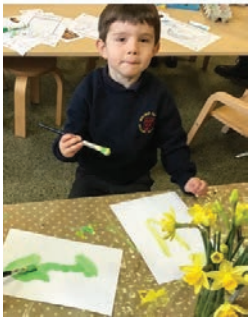
If any other scout would like to do a badge requiring publication or any young person has an article they would like to publish in the Parish news **then please do get in touch**…. *We'd love to see your creative writing in print.*

St Oswald's Mothers Union

After a two year stop due to covid we are starting Mothers Union group meetings again beginning this month, initially they will be in St Oswald's Church on the first Tuesday of each month . So a date for your diaries, TUESDAY 5th APRIL at 2pm. Do come along for fellowship, tea and biscuits, everyone's welcome.

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers Union
as we seek to share your love....
(Mothers Union prayer)



Concentrating hard on the still-life for Easter! Malpas Alport pre-schooler

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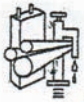

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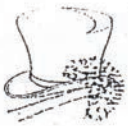

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‘Give Us This Day’ - Bread For The Benefice

In former times corn mills were important features in the countryside, and a source of considerable profit to the local lords of the manors. All the tenants of the manor were bound by custom to have their corn ground at the manor mill, paying a part of the flour as a toll to the lord, for the mill was part of his demesne (estate). In our part of south Cheshire, which is not typical windmill country, these were normally watermills such as those on the brook running through Edge, then via Lowcross and Carden mills, or farther south on the Wych Brook, at Higher Wych, Oldcastle and Sarn. However, if you walk along the Sandstone Trail on Larkton Hill, approaching Maiden Castle from the south-west, your eye may be drawn to a circular group of trees standing on the foothills, just above Broxton Hall Farm. Known locally as Broxton Clump, the trees mark the site of a former post windmill. The Broxton mill is marked on John Ogilby’s road map of 1675 and is referred to in the diary of Robert Bulkeley of Bulkeley, covering the period 1714-1729. At various times Robert wrote of his visits to Broxton mill to grind his oats and other cereals.

Broxton mill on Ogilby’s 1675 map

In Malpas the street now called ‘High Street’ was known as ‘Windmill Street’ until the 1870s. One windmill, to the south of Malpas, stood in the large field south-west of the corner of Whitchurch Road and Mastiff Lane. During the long drought in 1976 Rhys Williams, the County Archaeologist at that time, carried out an extensive aerial survey of the Dee Valley area and photographed a crop mark in that field. It was in the classic form of a circle containing a cross, evidence for the base of the trestle which had once supported the massive mill post, which would have been the trunk of a felled oak tree. At the north end of the High Street, on Tilston Road, was the field where part of the housing development known as ‘Brockbank’ was built in 2011. In a lease by Lord Cholmondeley to Thomas Brereton of Edge, dated 1659, it is described as *‘That part of the Milne field … where said all milnes were lately erected by him and Lord Cholmondeley and called the wyndy Milne Banke’*.

By the 18th century post mills had largely disappeared, usually because the main post had decayed, or the structure had been destroyed by high winds or other natural causes. Rarely around here were they replaced by more substantial brick-built tower mills such as that at Threapwood, which is still standing. It was up for sale in 1797, when an advertisement in the 'Chester Courant' described it as '*… that new-erected Messuage or Dwelling-House and Wind-Mill … the mill has been built but a few years, and is in complete and substantial repair …*'. Today it is, sadly, no longer in 'substantial repair' but can still be viewed across the fields from Greaves Lane. It was of such a mill that Longfellow wrote: *'Behold! A giant am I/Aloft here in my tower/With my granite jaws I devour/ The maize, and the wheat, and the rye/And grind them into flour.'*

By David Hayns

"Malpas Miscellanies" booklets are on sale at £5.00 each from Nisa (Malpas Post Office) or for £6.50 (inclusive of postage) from David Hayns at Stoke Cottage, Church Street, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8PD Tel:01948 860486 davidhayns.123@btinternet.com.

The derelict Threapwood tower mill

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Malpas Fabric Arts Group

Malpas Fabric Arts Group comprises around 25 members, from Cheshire, Shropshire and Wales. We like to share our knowledge to help beginners and offer advice to those who need it, whilst having fun being creative with fabric. We often inspire each other! We always bring what we have made and include a *Show and Tell* at our meetings, which is a great way to see interpretation and originality together with hearing about triumphs over difficulties.

We meet on alternate Mondays, where we have a variety of activities, such as demonstrations, talks, and have-a-go skill shares. Sometimes our own members will give a talk or demonstration, and on other dates we have guest speakers from further afield. Guests are welcome and are charged £5 for the evening which includes tea and biscuits. Everyone wants to have more time to sew which led us to develop a Sit & Sew Day once a month where members can get together to work on projects away from distractions.

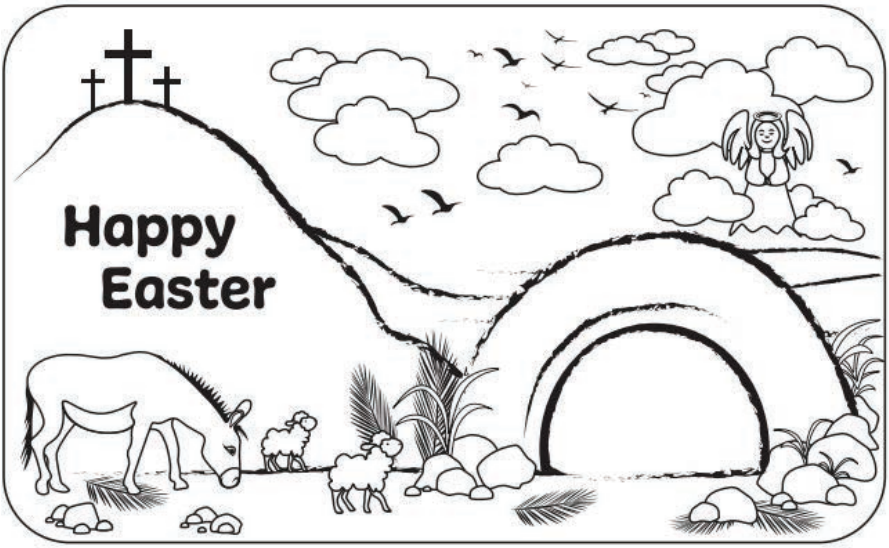
Our calendar also includes a few Saturday workshops, and it's always fascinating to see how one design can be interpreted so differently and how colour placement changes the overall effect!

We hold a Biennial Exhibition and the next one will be in Whitchurch Civic Centre, on **Friday 6 May (10-6pm) and Saturday 7 May (10-4pm)**. All styles of traditional and modern patchwork quilts will be exhibited, some hand stitched and many machine sewn. Two traders will also be there, with a range of quilting fabrics and notions for sale.

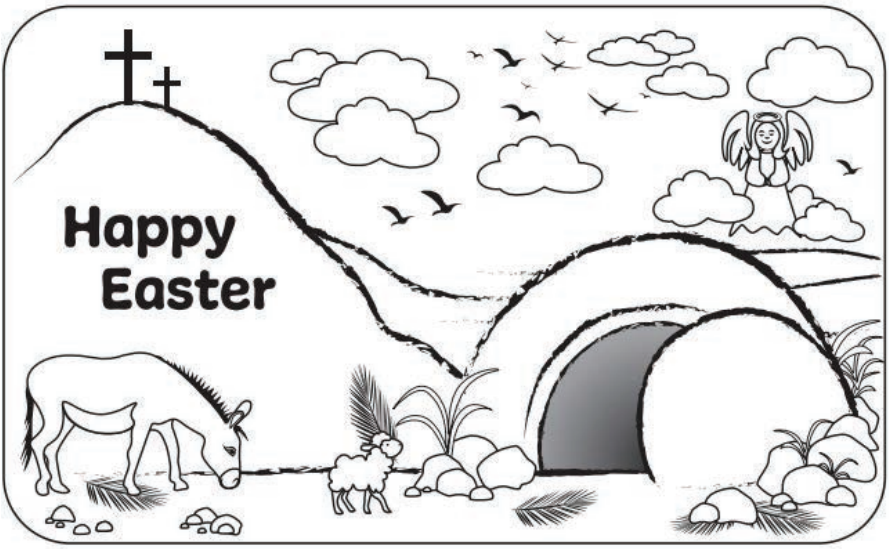
Visitors are welcome to browse the exhibits in the spacious and disabled-friendly Civic Centre. Admission will be £3 per person which includes entry to the raffle: the first prize is a quilt made by members. Seating and refreshments will be available, together with a tombola and sales table.

If you would like to join our meetings or come and see our exhibition, please contact Gill Rich on 07754 703040 or gillrich1966@gmail.com.

Pictured: work completed by members Lesley Smith, Jeanette Owen and Fiona Roberts



Spot 6 Differences



This picture shows the scene after the women arrived at the tomb and saw that the tomb was empty and that the huge stone covering the entrance had been rolled away from the entrance. Angels appeared to the women and told them that Jesus was alive and had risen from the dead. They ran off to tell their friends.

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Bingo's on 23rd and 30th March

Malpas Lions are holding 2 Bingo evenings

On Wednesday **March 23rd** in the Jubilee Hall in Malpas. Doors open at 7pm... eyes down at 7.30pm. Admission £1 including tea or coffee and cake. This will be to **raise funds towards the celebrations for Her Majesty's platinum Jubilee.**

On Wednesday **March 30th** in the Jubilee Hall in Malpas. Doors open at 7pm... eyes down at 7.30pm. Admission £1 including tea or coffee and cake, chicken dinners, vouchers etc, This will be to raise funds for local groups.

Norah O'DONNELL.

Malpas Lions.

Ed: My fault this missed March mag—hope this one delivered in time….

Want a happy evening out? Don't miss this, full of songs you know: Me and my girl, The Lambeth Walk, The sun has got his hat on, Leaning on a lamp post , and many more.

Malpas Walking for Health Scheme—April Dates

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All walks start from the High Street Church at 10.15 a.m. The walks last from half to three quarters of an hour on Tuesdays (**12th and 26th April**) and from one to one and half hours on Thursdays (**8th and 22nd April**). . *Sorry….dogs are not allowed on these walks*.

Contacts for further information: Sue Norwood ☎ **01948 861 101**
Wendy Gilpin ☎ **01829 250 413**

Malpas Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
2nd June to 5th June 2022

On February 6th this year, Her Majesty, The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee (seventy years of service).

In common with the country as a whole, events are planned in Malpas including the Lighting of a beacon on Castle Hill, Service of Thanksgiving and the Big Jubilee Lunch (picnic). Many more activities and events are in the process of being arranged and the final times will be fixed for the next magazine. In Malpas there will be a "Coronation Roadshow" (show your prized possessions, like Antiques Roadshow) at the High Street Church of artefacts from 1952/53, Town trail including scarecrows and decorations.

Thursday 2nd June : 50's Cream tea; One Achord ladies Choir Concert; Beacon Lighting on Castle Hill

Friday 3rd June : Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's reign at St Oswald's church, followed by dedication of a Platinum Celebration Tree and seats and then a peal of bells.

Time Capsule from Golden Jubilee 2012

Saturday 4th June : Village celebration parade of floats, vintage vehicles, horses and ponies riders in period dress, 50's fashions and characters, food and club stalls on the Rec, Fair on the Rec, Costume judging, A Dog Show and competition; Evening Band and fireworks finale.

Sunday 5th June : 5km fun run, Wizard Chess display games, Big Jubilee Lunch, (Family picnic on Rec), Village walking treasure hunt, Planting of Oak tree on the rec followed by Grand Raffle Draw.

GET INVOLVED! THERE'S SOMETHING FOR US ALL TO DO

Get planning your 50's costume or character for the parade and/or Wizard Chess.

Train your dog for the agility class or to wag on demand! Train *yourself* for 5km fun run!

We still have room for a few more stalls on the Rec for more displays, more clubs to present your activities. **A great chance to get more members.**

Contact: editor@malpascheshire.org or tel: 01948 860333 to find out what you can do.

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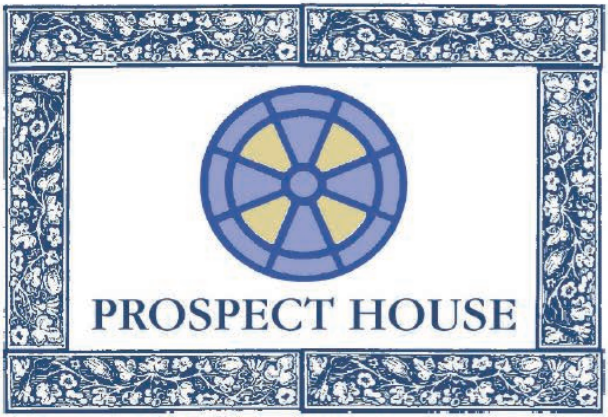

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